



Rocky Mountain National Park News Release

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For Immediate Release
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Search Continues for Missing Hiker in Rocky Mountain National Park

Rocky Mountain National Park staff continue their search today for a park visitor that was last seen near the summit of Fairchild Mountain at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, August 28. Hillel Ben-Avi was hiking with his brother in the Mummy Range in the northern part of the park.

Mr. Ben-Avi is 45 years old with brown hair and brown eyes. He is from Austin, Texas. He may be wearing a blue jacket with orange sleeves, gray pants, green and gray ball cap and carrying a blue-green Jansport backpack. Ben-Avi does not have any pre-existing health conditions and is athletic. He was not prepared to spend the night in the back country. **Park officials are asking visitors who might have been hiking in the Mummy Range area on Sunday, August 28 or Monday, August 29 to please contact the park at (970) 586-1204 for help in determining where he might have been seen last.**

The search began on Sunday evening and continued into Monday, with rangers and other park staff searching near lakes, trails and drainages in the Mummy Range. A helicopter was also utilized to assist with search efforts yesterday. Another day of intensive searching began this morning with approximately 70 people, two dog teams and two helicopters, including one with thermal imaging capabilities are involved in today's efforts. Larimer County Search and Rescue, Rocky Mountain Rescue Group and Alpine Rescue are assisting.

Hillel was hiking ahead of his brother on Sunday. His brother saw Hillel near the summit of Fairchild Mountain at approximately 1:30 p.m. When his brother reached the summit, Hillel was not there. Park dispatch received a cell phone call from Hillel at approximately 4:30 p.m. and then again almost 30 minutes later indicating he was lost. During the conversation Hillel mentioned he traveled by three lakes, and was instructed by a park ranger to return to the last lake he had passed. Hillel confirmed he heard the instructions shortly before the cell phone signal was lost. It appears that another call was made from his cell phone at approximately 10:20 p.m. but no known connection was made.

The Mummy Range is a remote, high altitude, rugged area which includes Fairchild Mountain, Mount Chapin, Mount Chiquita, Ypsilon Mountain and other prominent peaks. There are few designated trails in the area and hiking mainly occurs cross country.

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